

# THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

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Vol. I, No. 5

Quarterly

July, 1952

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*Published by*

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

*Formerly*

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Founded 1937

c/o The Public Library,  
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Subscription as a member of the Association includes subscription to the Journal. For extra copies and to non-members the charges including postage are 2/6 a copy and 10/- a year. Membership of the Association is open to persons and bodies engaged or interested in library service.

Contributions and letters for publication should be addressed to The Editor, *Australian Library Journal*, c/o Public Library of N.S.W., Macquarie Street, Sydney. All business communications should be sent to the Honorary General Secretary, Library Association of Australia, at the same address.

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## Australian Library Seminar

### LIBRARIANS ENTER THE COLOMBO PLAN

By H. L. WHITE, M.A.,

*Librarian, Commonwealth National Library*

Our friends from India, Indonesia and the Philippines have been; only two remain for a little longer. Many of us have had the opportunity to meet them in formal discussions and in informal situations of all kinds. Those who participated would wish to have this stimulating experience recorded—for themselves and for those who missed it for one reason or another. The organizers of the seminar tried to bring the visitors into contact with as many members of the Association as possible for their mutual advantage, and the Commonwealth Government appreciates the contribution which individuals, as well as institutions, have freely made. There was never any doubt of the success of the seminar. Australian librarians have themselves profited so much from visits abroad that they could respond with enthusiasm and competence to the varied demands which arose from an organized visit of 15 librarians of differing ages and experience—six from India, six from the Philippines, three from Indonesia. Moreover, they were guided in their task by the Association's president, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Latham, who was entrusted in 1934 with Australia's first diplomatic mission abroad, which took him, as it happened, to Asian countries. The seminar was an integral part of the Colombo Plan for co-operative economic development in south and south-east Asia which began in 1951, and the early inclusion of library study in the general programme is a proper recognition by the participating governments, including our own, of the place of the library in the life of a nation.

The initial proposal for an Australian Library Seminar was made by Mr. G. C. Remington at a meeting of the UNESCO

Committee for Libraries, and was finally brought within the framework of the Colombo Plan by the Office of Education, which acts as the agent of the Department of External Affairs for the technical assistance part of the programme. Meanwhile, the place of books and libraries in Australian programmes of assistance to other countries has been kept continuously before the responsible Commonwealth departments by the Commonwealth National Library, which selected books, films and film strips for inclusion in the Commonwealth gift of approximately £50,000 which preceded the Colombo Plan. Further proposals under the Plan itself are now being considered.

#### THE COLOMBO PLAN

Having regard to its achievements and problems, the Colombo Plan is far too little known in Australia, despite our contribution both to its planning and execution. Librarians can help to remedy this with the aid of several excellent publications which are available free, including the United Kingdom White Paper, reprinted by the Department of External Affairs under the title "Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia" (Cmd. 8080), and the still more popular illustrated account, also issued by the Department, under the title "New Hope for Asia". The Plan was launched at a meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at Colombo in January, 1950, and further developed at meetings in Sydney, London and Karachi, the latest in March of this year. It is administered by a council of representatives of the participating governments assisted by a central bureau established at Colombo. The objective is to raise living standards through a planned

programme of co-operation by the British Commonwealth countries, which include Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and its territories of Malaya and North Borneo, along with the governments of Burma, Indo-China (including Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam), Nepal and the United States. Other countries in the area have been invited to participate in the benefits of the Plan, and Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand are doing so. It is recognized that the Colombo Plan is part only of a total effort to which the governmental programmes of the countries concerned will contribute, along with assistance from the United Nations, the United States and other sources. For 590,000,000 people are involved, and the destruction and disorganization of the war have reduced the already low standard of living. Food, of course, is the basic problem. The estimated cost is £1,868,000,000 over a six-year period. Most of this must come from outside the area and Australia has offered £31,000,000.

It soon became clear that a permanent solution to the problems of the area could be found only in the improvement of technical equipment and skills of the people themselves, thus avoiding the dangers to which the Director-General of UNESCO had drawn attention of achieving progress *for* the people instead of *by* the people, with the consequent loss of self-respect and self-reliance. The Commonwealth Technical Co-operation Scheme was therefore developed, to cost £8,000,000 during the three years from July 1, 1950. The co-operative nature of the scheme should be emphasized, for while Asian countries need western technical assistance, we have much to learn from them, and especially from their ancient and highly developed civilizations. The achievement to date is encouraging. By the end of 1951, 45 experts and advisers, including 25 Australians, had been sent to the participating countries and 40 senior Asian officials sent on short-term missions abroad. Facilities had been provided for 309 students, of whom 200 have come to Australia. A beginning has also been made with the supply of scientific and educational equipment, including books. Training

awards have been offered by Australia to Burma, Ceylon, India, Indo-China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the British territories in south and south-east Asia. They are not limited to formal academic study but cover fields of observation and study in Commonwealth and State Government Departments and in other institutions and organizations, including those of private industry. The subjects covered include agriculture, water conservation, transport, education and public health. In addition to the individual awards, provision is made for seminars in special fields. Two such seminars in government administration for Pakistan officials and one in social services have been conducted by the Commonwealth Public Service Board and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in Canberra and Melbourne respectively.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

Chronologically the library seminar was the third in this series, though the invitation to Asian countries to participate was issued much earlier. This reflects the general development of the Plan, which has been to concentrate first on the basic services of agriculture, water conservation and power development, and to move later towards social services and education. The governments invited to send librarians included Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaya, the Philippines and Thailand. All accepted, but practical difficulties limited the effective participation to six from India, six from the Philippines and three from Indonesia. The seminar was arranged for the Department of External Affairs by the Commonwealth Office of Education and the Commonwealth National Library in conjunction with the Library Association and the UNESCO Committee for Libraries. The Advisory Committee responsible for major policy consisted of the President of the Library Association (The Rt. Hon. Sir John Latham) as Chairman; the Librarian, Commonwealth National Library (Mr. H. L. White); the Chairman of the UNESCO Committee (Mr. F. Bell, City Librarian of Sydney); and the Principal Librarians of the Public Library of New South Wales



and the Public Library of Victoria (Mr. John Metcalfe and Mr. C. A. McCallum). Detailed plans were drawn up and supervised by a Programme Committee which consisted of Miss E. S. Hall, Director of Training at the Commonwealth National Library, as Director of Seminar Studies, and of Miss Wilma Radford from the Public Library of New South Wales, Mr. F. J. Perry from the Public Library of Victoria and, for the final session, Mr. L. S. Lake of the Commonwealth National Library. Mr. H. J. Russell and Mr. J. G. Hoeben, of the Office of Education, acted as executive officers. The seminar consisted of an opening session of formal lectures and discussions at Canberra from February 25 to March 9 and a similar concluding session in Sydney from May 26 to June 5, with facilities for participants to spend the intervening period of just under three months in study and observation in the libraries best suited to their special needs and interests. Practical considerations limited the choice of libraries to the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Indonesian participants did not arrive in time for the opening session. They went directly to the Library School in Sydney in the first instance, and two remained there throughout the short course.

#### THE SEMINAR IN SESSION

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Latham presided at the first session, which was held at the Canberra University College and attended by official representatives of the countries participating in the Colombo Plan. It was opened by the Hon. Howard Beale, Q.C., Minister for Supply, representing the Minister for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, who was unavoidably absent but took a deep personal interest in the seminar. The High Commissioner for India (His Excellency Maharaj Shri Duleepsinhji), in responding, gave a timely reminder of the age and character of Oriental civilizations. All speakers emphasized that one of the major purposes of the seminar was mutual understanding, and an attempt was made throughout the Canberra session to give the participants a useful

introduction to aspects of Australian life and development through talks on "Australia and the Australian People" by the Hon. Paul Hasluck, Minister for Territories, and on "Australian Life Through the Novel" by T. Inglis Moore, Australian poet and critic. Films on the Australian way of life, produced by the News and Information Bureau, were also shown, and Parliament was visited in session. The technical papers were designed to cover the institutional pattern of libraries, providing at the same time a picture of Australian conditions.

Such was the extent of formal library knowledge among the participants, eleven of whom already had library degrees from their own universities, that maximum advantage was taken of a programme typical of the best Australian librarians could offer, nor was it by any means one-way traffic.

The final session conducted at the Public Library of New South Wales was then concentrated on library techniques and processes in accordance with the wishes of the participants. The other main theme in Sydney was library development in the countries of the participants, introduced by admirable papers prepared by the participants from India and the Philippines. Space will not permit, nor have we yet before us a complete picture of the period of observation and study in libraries. State Libraries and Trustees, University and Parliamentary Librarians, local and special librarians of all kinds and in all places, both in their official capacities and privately as members of the Library Association, were so helpful and so painstaking in assisting the programme that it developed beyond the official plan and always to the advantage of the participants.

Participating governments should be congratulated on the intellectual and educational standards of their librarian representatives. Those from India and the Philippines were university graduates in Arts or Science as well as in Library Science. All appreciated the great need of their countries for expanded library service, either to repair war damage or to develop new services on a national scale. They had a sense of mission which, allied to knowledge, augurs well for the people they serve.

### MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Sufficient has been said and enough is already known to indicate that the seminar has been an outstanding success on the formal side. It would be impossible, without departing from the primary purpose of this paper, to deal adequately with its less formal aspects. We would also be in danger of overlaying with sentiment a new and vital relationship which can be successfully developed only through realism tempered with understanding. However, some things should be said because they have been so widely felt by the visitors and by ourselves and by those other Australians, old and new, with whom they came in contact. The first is the unique value of the personal visit. No use of books or visual aids, no exchange of ideas at a distance can bring the mutual respect, the genuine understanding, even the deep affection which developed among us during those few months. Fortunately, this experience was not shared by librarians alone.

Ministers of State and other political leaders, the Minister for External Affairs, the Speaker of the House of Representatives (the Hon. A. G. Cameron), who is also Chairman of the National Library Committee, the four women Senators in the Federal Parliament, the President of the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales (the Rt. Hon. H. V. Evatt), the Lord Mayor of Sydney (the Hon. E. C. O'Dea), and the President of the Library Association, all offered formal hospitality and informal friendship to the visitors, as did the branches of the Library Association, universities, women's groups and organizations of all kinds. Everywhere the interest and friendship were equally spontaneous and reciprocal, whether in private homes, in hostels, restaurants or public places. Tales will continue to be told of the happy incidents and unrehearsed episodes, some amusing, some touching, but all a very real part of the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia.

### New Reproduction Machines

Two machines and processes for the reproduction of printing—typescript, manuscript and so on—which are new to Australia are now being demonstrated in Sydney. One is the Dutch "Retoce", and the other the German "Unikop".

The "Retoce" sells for about £300 and reproduces quickly, without any need of a dark room or contact with liquids, anything on transparent or translucent paper at a cost of about 3d. a page. It will not reproduce in this way from an opaque surface or one printed or written on both sides. To reproduce from these a film transparency has to be made first, by a very ingenious method; but it is slower and the special film costs 3s. 6d. a page. This machine has advantages in office use when copies of letters are wanted quickly and cheaply or when multiple copies of printed matter are wanted and the cost of the film transparency can be distributed. It is not economical for making single copies of printed matter from books, and the machine is not designed to

hold bound volumes. There is, however, another model now out here which is more satisfactory in this respect. The agents are New South Wales Business Machines, 158 Strand Arcade, George Street, Sydney.

The "Unikop", selling at about £180, is far more promising for general library purposes, and one is already in satisfactory use in a large special library in Sydney. A "master" which is a positive in reverse is made by contact printing under an adjustable lid designed to take bound volumes; this positive in reverse is placed on a piece of different sensitized paper and both are passed through a liquid. As with the "Retoce" process, there need be no contact with the liquid, and there is no need of a dark room. The result is a positive, black on white, in about four minutes, at a cost of between 10d. and 1s. Each master can be used only once, but of course the entire process can be repeated. The agents are J. Balfour and Co. Pty. Ltd., 13 Market Street, Sydney.



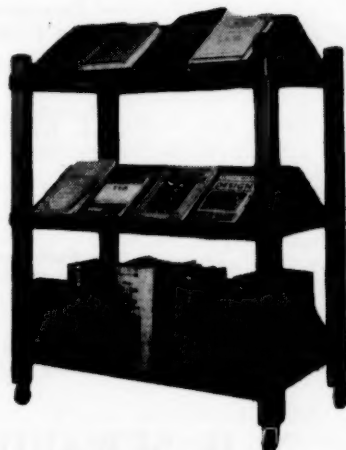
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## Regional Planning and the Future of Libraries in South Australia

By W. G. BUICK.

*(The substance of an address given at the annual meeting of the South Australian Branch, Library Association of Australia, in December, 1951.)*

South Australia needs more public libraries. We can say that we have a 100% coverage, as it is possible for all our population to receive some kind of service from the Public Library of South Australia; but few would say that the system is of the best kind. We can, within the limits of this system, claim that we give as good service as most, but the criticism that can be levelled against us is that the distribution of the service is all wrong. The area of South Australia is approximately 380,000 square miles, the population approximately 650,000 people, with one distribution point; there are, of course, single library systems with much larger populations than this, but there can be few with larger areas.

In most of the other States of Australia and in most other parts of the English-speaking world the unit of library service is the local governing body. In Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and parts of the United States of America this apparently works with success, though even in those countries there is an increasing number of voices claiming central government aid and the amalgamation of present library units to form larger and more effective units.

For example, in Great Britain the report of 1927 advocated that no unit with a population below 20,000 should attempt to provide independent service. This view was also adopted by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. L. McColvin, in his 1942 report, says: "It is clear that very few of the existing units of library service are satisfactory." He writes that the satisfactory unit "must embrace a normal natural congregation of people and be well related to their ways of living, their normal comings

and goings, their interests and occupations. The unit . . . must be large enough to comprise a sufficient number of people. The unit . . . must be large enough to afford full useful occupation for the expert and specialized personnel." McColvin also advocates the provision of central government funds.

In New Zealand, where local affairs are more highly developed than in South Australia and where the population is more compact, the Munn-Barr report suggested regional organization. A. G. W. Dunningham, in a paper to the 1947 conference of the New Zealand Library Association which has a regional planning committee, said that "the basic fault in library policy in the first sixty years of central government [in New Zealand] . . . was that it failed to encourage co-operative grouping of local bodies for library purposes".

In New South Wales the same criticisms have been made. The local government units are often too small and there is encouragement and propaganda for the co-operation of local bodies for library purposes. There are several of these co-operatives and the situation is well presented in the proceedings of the Riverina regional library conference of 1947.

It is very difficult to find uniformity of opinion as regards the size of the population necessary to maintain a library unit. Mr. McColvin has suggested that it should have a stock of 300,000 volumes and that the population to be served should be in the region of 300,000 people. On the basis of these figures Mr. McColvin has recommended that the present 603 local government maintained library systems be reconstituted into 93 new units ranging in

population from 220,000 (Central London) to 1,288,000 (Birmingham and district). The Riverina regional library conference statement is that "about half a million people are necessary to maintain sufficient library service, about 10,000 are necessary to maintain a local service point". H. G. Stewart, of the famous Frazer Valley system in British Columbia, says that the library unit should contain from 40,000 to 50,000 people.

Alongside this information let us examine the position in South Australia where local authorities given free rein to provide our public library service—the sort of thing we librarians have been preaching.

There are 43 municipal councils and 100 district councils. Of these 143 local governing bodies there are only 16 with more than 10,000 inhabitants, none of them have more than 45,000. There are only 24 with more than 5,000.

There is, then, not one council in South Australia representing a population which is large enough to maintain an effective local library unit. A similar situation has arisen with the local Boards of Health. It has also been claimed that there are too many of these and that they should have about 75,000 people in their areas—that is, there should be about eight instead of 143. Amalgamation has been suggested as a remedy and this has been achieved in the metropolitan area.

It is apparent, I think, that from economic, administrative and cultural points of view local governing bodies in South Australia are not comparable with those in Great Britain, whence spring our ideas of public library provision. We must remember, too, that authoritative persons in England are advocating co-operation and amalgamation of library units with the idea of creating more populous library areas. It seems quite evident that 143 councils in South Australia should not become 143 library committees even if they were willing. Yet we do need more public libraries than we have now. How are they to be organized?

Should we consider the State Government as the sole dispenser of library service as it is for education? Is it feasible to equate the British local governing body not so

much with our own councils but rather with the Australian State Governments?

J. Macdonald Holmes says: "There are periodical occasions in all countries when the machinery of government must be overhauled. . . . The tendency of the last thirty years . . . is to impose upon the distant individual a form of administration remote from his appreciation and for which he feels little responsibility." The centralization of power in the States is under fire. There is at present no level of government between the district and municipal councils, which are too small for our purpose, and the State Government, which appears to be too remote for the best library service.

Effective government, social advancement, cultural improvement—all have been put forward as aims of regionalization. Many of the claims have been linked with the decentralization of industry and it seems certain that recent statements about the vulnerability of Australian cities to atomic attack will also be used to foster *local* responsibility and initiative and development.

In this State the Government's regional planning committee has issued a preliminary report on the matter and has drawn the boundaries and named 20 regions. In doing this the committee considered natural and economic factors. Uniformity of production of material for man's use, the similarity of community interests and modes of life, the size of regions concerned relative to their populations. These regions seem to be worth considering as possible library units.

One of these regions—the aboriginal reserve in the north-west—has no white population; no schools, no hospitals, no gaols, nothing to warrant library service for some time to come, if ever.

The other 19 range in size from 940 square miles (Fleurieu) to 102,770 square miles (Stuart); in population from 300 (Cooper) to 420,000 (Adelaide—two-thirds of the total South Australian population). In other terms, from six per 1000 square miles to 259 people per square mile. It is obvious that some of these regions have populations too small and too sparse to maintain any local library. Six of the



## KEY.

Region	Population	Area (sq. miles)
1. Aboriginal Reserve ...	1,000	26,140
2. Stuart .....	1,150	102,770
3. Cooper .....	300	53,320
4. Giles .....	1,350	84,340
5. Frome .....	1,800	48,470
6. Nuyts .....	4,000	6,470
7. Eyre .....	15,000	12,820
8. Whyalla .....	8,000	2,130
9. Flinders .....	18,000	6,240
10. Goyder .....	36,000	4,700
11. Yorke .....	20,000	2,920
12. Light .....	29,000	3,020
13. Pyap .....	20,000	4,650
14. Adelaide .....	420,000	1,620
15. Fleurieu .....	10,000	940
16. Sturt .....	14,000	2,730
17. Murray Mallee .....	7,000	5,760
18. Tatiara .....	3,000	3,880
19. Gambier .....	25,000	5,470
20. Kangaroo Island .....	1,000	1,680

regions have more than 20,000 people, ten more than 10,000, 12 more than 5,000, and taking into consideration area, population and density there is a possibility that 12 of the regions (Eyre, Murray Mallee, Flinders, Pyap, Whyalla, Sturt, Gambier, Yorke, Goyder, Light, Fleurieu and Adelaide) could maintain libraries.

*Adelaide* (420,000 population).—This is one of the smallest regions and by far the most populous. It is larger than the metropolitan area and includes Gawler, Mount Barker and Willunga. Adelaide, of course, would be the hub of all library provision in the State irrespective of the kind of library authorities which will be set up. There is public communication of some sort with each of the other regions except No. 20, which I have disregarded in all respects in this paper. There are air services with 10 of the regions and rail with all but six, which will facilitate the passage of books from the centre outwards. Many branch libraries are indicated for this region.

*Light* (29,000 population).—This is the lower north and includes the Barossa Valley, Port Wakefield, Riverton, Auburn,

and several local councils with more than 2,000 people. Branches are likely here, too. It is contiguous with Adelaide, so the absence of air transport is not a vital consideration.

*Sturt* (14,000 population) and *Fleurieu* (10,000 population).—These are the lower Murray and Fleurieu peninsular regions. What has been said about Light can be said about these regions. Fleurieu is the smallest and second most densely populated region. Branches and mobile libraries are possibilities. River transport may be feasible in Sturt. It seems likely that Murray Mallee should be served from Murray Bridge.

*Pyap* (20,000 population).—This is the upper Murray region which includes Renmark, Barmera, Berri and Waikerie, which each have more than 2,000 people. Renmark, though not the largest of these, with air transport to Adelaide, would seem to be the most suitable town for a central library.

*Gambier* (25,000 population).—This is the lower south-east of the State where there is much expansion and the population is growing rapidly. Mount Gambier is the obvious centre. Rail communication within



the region is good. There is air communication. If regionalism is really developed in Australia, it seems likely that this region will be united with an adjoining Victorian one.

*Yorke* (20,000 population).—One of the most easily defined regions—Yorke Peninsula. There is rail communication with Adelaide, but a large portion of the region relies on road transport. Mobile libraries (which were suggested by Mr. S. H. Skipper in the Price report) are more likely here than in any other region.

*Eyre* (15,000 population).—Argument for a regional library is most persuasive here. This large area is isolated from Adelaide. Port Lincoln has much more to it than being just another country town—it is the capital of Eyre Peninsula. There are hundreds of miles of railways based on Port Lincoln with no link with the main railway system of the State. A large library here could utilize these railways and provide much better service than is possible to the west coast at the present time. There is quick communication with Adelaide by air to the obvious centre, Port Lincoln, and two other towns.

The adjoining region, Nuyts, is in rail communication with Port Lincoln and should be served from there as it is too sparsely populated to maintain a service of its own.

*Whyalla* (8,000 population).—This is a region with practically no problems. Almost all of the people live in one town—Whyalla itself. There is air communication with Adelaide.

*Goyder* (36,000 population).—The mid-north, of which Port Pirie, the largest country town in the State, is the natural centre.

*Flinders* (18,000 population).—The area above Goyder, including Port Augusta, Hawker, Wilmington and Peterborough.

*Murray Mallee* (7,000 population).—This is the least likely of the present group of regions to be able to support a local library. There are no towns with even 2,000 people. The population is sparse, with only one

person per square mile. Rail communication is good and it may be better to use this to supply books from Murray Bridge, the probable centre for Sturt.

The remaining seven regions (Tatiara, Kangaroo Island, Nuyts, Giles, Frome, Stuart and Cooper) have population so small that library service will have to be given from outside. Five of them have air services between Adelaide and their largest towns, but this will not reach all their populations. These eight areas may be linked with adjoining areas or be served from Adelaide as they are now. Giles, Frome and Stuart have rail connection with Port Augusta, and as most of their populations are associated with the railways or have to make regular visits to the railway sidings it seems they should be amalgamated with Flinders. There seems no effective alternative than to join Nuyts with Eyre. Tatiara (the upper south-east) could well be served from Gambier. Kangaroo Island, isolated as it is by Backstairs Passage, would best be served by air from the central bureau in Adelaide.

I have little doubt that the regionalization of South Australia offers advantages for library provision in this State. By using 19 regions as units of library service we would effectively decentralize our present service, bring the libraries nearer to the people, give some opportunity for each area to specialize and at the same time provide areas, though large, with more economical populations than we would were we to use local council areas.

These regions at the moment, and probably for a long time to come, have no governing authorities. Who, then, is to organize, administer and finance these regional libraries?

There are three ways to do this: (i) By co-operation between the constituent councils. (ii) By creating *ad hoc* library authorities each to govern a region. (iii) By the Libraries Department of the State Government.

Library matters are not the concern of the councils at present nor does it seem that any move will come from them to make it so. There is likely to be opposition for financial reasons rather than co-operation.

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With government support it would be reasonable of the Government to withdraw any library service it is now giving from people living in the area of a council which did not co-operate.

The creation of *ad hoc* boards and authorities is not an unheard of thing. Authority could be given for these library authorities to strike rates. I think it is true to say that the creation of these special restricted boards is looked upon with disfavour by people and government alike.

Decentralization and expansion of the Libraries Department under the Libraries Board is the third possibility. The present Libraries Act does allow the Libraries Board to provide such library service as it sees fit, and presumably it could tomorrow set in motion a regional library system if it wished, though the Act makes no financial provision. The continuance of the institute system alongside a public library system is, it need hardly be said, untenable.

Would the decentralization of the Libraries Department be a bad thing? Would it lead to bureaucracy? Would the interests of the people for whom the libraries would exist be lost in red-tape? Would the system be too cumbersome?

Would it present more opportunity for staff training, centralization of book purchasing and processing, staff exchange and relief, better supervision?

Much more can, should and must be thought about. Sooner rather than later I hope it will be necessary to develop in detail the questions here raised. When that time comes the South Australian Branch of the Library Association of Australia should have the answers, or we have overlooked our objects.

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## Reviews of Library Literature

TWENTIETH CENTURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS, by Frank Eyre. Published for the British Council by Longmans, Green and Company, London, 1952.

This book is a notable addition to the few really good books about children's books and will be welcomed by school and children's librarians as were earlier books by Dorothy Neal White and Geoffrey Trease. The rapid development taking place in school libraries in most Australian States makes it increasingly important that such thoughtful surveys as this should be available to those who have the responsibility of providing for the reading needs of children. Eyre's book consists of four chapters totalling 72 pages. The chapters are entitled

"Historical", "Books With Pictures", "The In-Between Books", and "Fiction for Children". The historical review attempts to show that a cyclical pattern can be discerned in British children's books consisting of a continual alternation between the most determinedly moral stories calculated to improve and uplift young readers, and books designed purely for pleasure. He concludes that the early 1930's saw a swing from the latter type to the former, with the emphasis less on morality and more on making children aware of the function and purpose of the material things about them. Librarians will appreciate his summing up of the "Bumper" book. The "Bumper"

book, which it is to be hoped has not been inflicted on the children of other nations, can be defined as "a claim to give the best value in the world while actually offering the worst". The chapter on books with pictures is particularly good. Eyre's experience as a publisher enables him to outline the technical developments which have made possible the better reproduction of the illustrator's work, while the illustrations used in his own book are excellently chosen to show modern trends in this field. The "In-Between Books" are books of fantasy, perhaps the best supplied of all fields of children's books. As Eyre points out, nearly all the distinguished writers who have turned to writing for children have produced books of fantasy. Kipling, Barrie, Kenneth Grahame and A. A. Milne have been followed by a number of writers who have produced books which all children should have met before they have outgrown their delight in this type of story. The chapter on fiction for children is the least satisfying in the book. This is not due to any falling away in style but to Eyre's crowding of his assessments of some fifty authors into the space of fifteen pages. Of these fifteen pages, three are allocated to Arthur Ransome whilst Enid Blyton rates two lines. Children's librarians, who know of the growing tendency of the modern adventure book to portray children who outwit and overcome by physical violence gangs of hardened criminals, will appreciate the review of a book of this type written by Enid Blyton; "But what chance have a gang of desperate criminals against three small children?" The book has a list of Carnegie Medal winners and a bibliography of literature on children's books.

C. HOUSDEN,  
*Libraries Service Office, Education  
Department, Victoria.*

THE LIBRARIES OF GREATER LONDON. A guide compiled by L. M. Harrod. Bell, London, 1951. Price, 25s.

This is a directory of libraries of all kinds alphabetically arranged by their names, with an alphabetical index of the subjects covered by special libraries and collections, and of special collection names.

Accident Law, 61, refers us to the information that Finchley Public Libraries specialize in contract and tort. Accident Law, Libel, Applied Mathematics. Accountancy, 6, leads us to the library of the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants. Davies-Colley Memorial Collection, 70, leads us to Guy's Hospital Medical School.

Mr. Harrod's work is so obviously valuable to librarians and users of libraries in Great Britain, and as a model to compilers of similar directories such as that of special libraries which our Special Libraries Section has in hand, that we might have been spared some of the publishers' irrelevant blurb. It says "London is the best-provided city in the world as far as libraries go" and "leads the world in the adequacy of its public libraries". Yet London has no adequate general reference library open to the general public or open after 5 p.m. No doubt the provincial cities of Great Britain will make their own comment.

J.M.

PRISON LIBRARIES, by Richard F. Watson. The Library Association, London, 1951.

So little has been written about prison libraries that any contribution, however small, should interest all librarians and demand the closest attention of those who specialize in this field.

The author has given a brief outline of the library facilities in the prisons of many countries. The summary of the history of English prison libraries is interesting, but not detailed enough to illustrate the poorness of the libraries generally and the limited scope of their subject matter.

The prison reader, because of his long periods of solitary confinement, should be afforded special library facilities, asserts the author. So, too, should the prison librarian be a conscientious library host. This is to help counteract a tendency for introspection that results in a strengthening of the anti-social outlook in many cases. A reasonable form of censorship and an outline on book selection is given. Present-day problems are then discussed. These are apparently common to all countries. There is the



illiterate, much higher in proportion in a prison population. There is the fact that prisoners lack social responsibility and their attitude to what is essentially a social service is such that vandalism is a constant threat. The prisoner who tries to retain a popular novel and lend it to others in return for tobacco or some other consideration also seems to be universal. Some suggestions as to what form of action could be taken against these offenders would have been helpful.

Detailed statistics on the present-day prison library services in England and Wales give a useful basis for similar work in this country and illustrate the flexibility of modern library service. It is also satisfying to note that prison libraries in Australia are being reorganized on similar lines.

The bibliography represents practically the whole of the literature allied to this subject, and this pamphlet is a very welcome addition to this field of library science.

BRIAN A. PRIDEAUX, *Librarian,*  
*New South Wales Prisons Department.*

BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. A selected inventory of periodical publications. UNESCO, Paris.

What this is would have been clearer if it had been called a Survey of Social Science Documentation, with a select list of periodical publications. The first part is a summary of papers submitted to a committee of experts on documentation in the field in 1949. The second part is an alphabetical list of what are called periodical publications on the main title page but become documentation services in the part title. This part also includes some facsimiles and further indexes. *Australian Social Science Abstracts* is given with 58 other periodicals or documentation services, and with information on 14 points—A to N—from Periodicity to Nature and periodicity of tables, indexes, etc. Apart from somewhat confusing titling it is a useful contribution to the rationalization of indexing and abstracting in its field. J.M.

## Scientific Information in Industry

*(Following is the substance of an address given to members of the Special Library Section in the Victorian Branch by Dr. Alexander King, of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He was in Australia for the British Commonwealth Scientific Conference. Notes were taken by Miss Patricia H. Mapleback, Librarian, Olympic Cables Ltd., Melbourne.)*

### THE NEED FOR INFORMATION

In England, since the war, economic difficulties have necessitated very close attention to budget control, and there has been an enormous drive to increase the efficiency and output of industry.

Investigations were made into the question of industrial productivity, and in a report made in 1948 Dr. L. Rostas pointed out that, on the average, industrial productivity in the United States of America was approximately 2.2 times greater than that of England and of most European countries.

In the subsequent drive to increase productivity in the United Kingdom, scientists are figuring prominently, since in the progress of any modern country scientific innovation counts most in the long run. It is essential at least to keep abreast of work being done in other countries.

It was realized, however, that much of the scientific research being done in England was not being followed up by industrial application, and in the past other countries have exploited many important discoveries made by British scientists—for

example, penicillin, ion-exchange resins—as soon as the British patents have expired without being utilized by British industrialists.

To this question of quicker utilization of the results of research work, better information services is not the complete answer, but it is an important factor. Consequently, in the last few years there has been greater attention paid to the improvement of these services.

#### THE SUPPLY OF INFORMATION

In England recently Professor Bernal questioned the efficacy of, and therefore the justification for, the increasingly large number of scientific journals, abstract journals, etc., as an effective means of the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Investigations have shown that industries based on the discoveries of the twentieth century, such as plastics and organic chemicals, are much more on their toes in keeping up with the latest information; but older established industries, such as shoe manufacture, the building trades, etc., are less scientifically minded. For many of the latter type of industries scientific reports of discoveries in connection with their processes are not published in easily-readable form but rather are written for other scientists. There is obviously a greater effort needed to bring research writing to a level easily understood by the people for whom the research is done. It must be added here that efforts to do this, by employing "popular" writers to transcribe scientific reports, have not been universally acclaimed by scientists in England.

There is a tendency now for industrial firms to supplement normal library services by setting up "information groups", but very often without a clear idea of the function of these groups. On the whole they are rather haphazard, with various outlooks and ideas, some being very good, others not so good.

#### THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

##### *Library and Literature Work*

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research encourages its workers to

publish technical papers, reports, etc., in the normal scientific and technical press. The Department also publishes abstract journals for particular industries, in co-operation with research associations, which cover all aspects of the industry with which they are each respectively associated.

##### *Information Services*

The Department and the research associations have set up about 60 information groups, each one attached to the laboratory carrying out research in a particular industrial field. Each laboratory has its own specialized information service. In some cases the information service is an extension of the library, in others it is a separate body. Simple and routine questions put to the information group are answered by printed brochures on the subject, already prepared, which are sent out from the library.

The information officers running these services must have scientific training, broad scientific understanding and common sense, and must be able to apply their knowledge to the practical work of industry. A good personality is essential, as the work involves constant personal contact with the people who manage industry. Most of the information officers are scientists who have previously been engaged in research work in the particular field of the service to which they are attached. Some officers, but not all, have had formal library training.

Information is supplied from published material and from research reports, as well as from the practical knowledge and experience gained from close work with the industry itself.

About 200,000 inquiries per year, apart from the routine questions answered by brochures, are handled by the information services. This type of information service is booming in England, as very often the information officer can give a broader and better-balanced answer to inquiries than can the research worker who is engaged on highly specialized sections of the work.

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### *Industrial Liaison Groups*

Some of the research associations have industrial liaison groups as an extension of the service. Special officers visit the industrial firms, advising them of improvements possible in their manufacturing and management and helping them to put these improvements into practice. They also give practical help based on their first-class knowledge and experience gained from working with other sections of the industry. Very few firms are objecting to allowing other firms to gain from their experience.

### *Decentralization of Services*

Decentralized services and regional work are encouraged and supported by the Department in order to work in close contact with the industries served.

A central group is necessary to supplement these individual groups, in order (a) to put inquirers into touch with the appropriate source of information; (b) to give information on subjects for which there is no special information group; (c) to carry out research into the efficient provision of scientific information.

In all this work the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the research associations work in close co-operation with ASLIB.

### THE RESEARCH APPROACH

Research is being carried out into the efficient provision and the utilization of scientific information. Questions which are being investigated are:

- (1) What are the qualifications of the directors of industry? How many have scientific qualifications?
- (2) Where does the average firm get information? From journals and abstracts, from scientific staff?
- (3) Is contact being made with the research associations or the universities?

- (4) Is the information obtained being applied or is it too far above the heads of the industrial people?

In Manchester 400 firms are being investigated along these lines and the results of this work are expected to be complete by the end of the year.

In Birmingham case histories are being studied in a number of industries. Reasons for past mistakes are explored and why information obtained and discoveries made have not been utilized, together with what results have been obtained by the application of research information.

In Guildford, near London, a number of firms are being visited and advised as to the best methods of obtaining information; they are put in touch with the research association and information service dealing with their particular industry and encouraged to use the facilities offered. After all the firms selected have been visited, nothing more will be done for six months. Then another investigation will be made to find out how much use has been made of these facilities, and where use has been made how much difference this better access to the latest information has made to the industry.

### CONCLUSION

The application of science in industry is a very difficult problem, the basic factor being education. There are not enough people controlling industry who have scientific (in which is included engineering) training, but rather too large a preponderance of lawyers and chartered accountants.

However, the work of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is doing is hoped to indicate what can be done to facilitate the dissemination and application of scientific information as a step in the drive to increase industrial productivity and efficiency.

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## Advice to Readers and Bibliotherapy

By JOAN TIGHE, B.A.,

*Librarian, New South Wales Department of Public Health.*

Since the very beginnings of the public library movement, even in the days of its most primitive forms, the Schools of Arts and the Mechanics Institutes, there has been the realization that here was a primary opportunity for adult education. Books can help and give guidance to people for both their work and their home life.

Generally there is little realization among the public, however, that books, even entertaining books, are written on every subject under the sun. Certainly little enough is done to tell people that here is a source of enjoyment and information for everyone—not only for scholars, school teachers and such peculiar people.

Rarely is the appetite for post-school learning so active that it does not need a great deal of energy, spent by enthusiasts, in fostering and cultivating that appetite. People have to be brought to books, and at the same time books have to be taken to people. The pressure advertising and extension activities which bring this about are many and varied. Finchley Public Library, in England, has even tried discussion groups over pots of ale in the local public house. This bringing of books to the people no doubt guarantees good business for both the librarian and the publican.

One of the more orthodox ways of bridging the gap between the books available and the desires of the public is the one I wish to discuss—readers' advising.

### READERS' ADVISING

Every librarian is in one way a readers' adviser, in so far as he is always being called upon to give an opinion for or against some book. This is a trap set by readers which librarians should generally be very careful to avoid, steering the reader where ever possible back to independent choice. It is not the librarian's position to set the

standards of public taste. The true readers' adviser is a trained librarian who specializes in recommending books to readers. His training and knowledge equip him to commit himself without fear of personal bias or ignorant blunder. Such people, we are told, are common in the United States, with its long experience of the value of the public library. Their task is to help the reader to self-education, explaining to him what books can do and showing him how to set about extracting the entertainment and instruction, which, without assistance, may remain permanently hidden from the uninitiated.

The activity begins when the reader is referred to the adviser, saying he'd rather fancy a list of good books to read; or he's just bought an old house and he'd like to learn how to renovate it; or he's always intended to do a course on Greek philosophy and how should he tackle it. In the efficient service the first step is to interview the customer. These interviews somewhat resemble those conducted by a research officer before making a search for references. Only his skill in cross-examining inquirers saves the library hours of unnecessary and involved work, for the public has great difficulty in explaining both what they really want and what they don't want.

The readers' adviser naturally has this same trouble, but a more personal element enters into advising work. In his interview he has to learn all he can of his client's educational experience and his participation in the available informal study activities. In public libraries we haven't yet the advantage of being able to ask our clients for their I.Q. rating, so we have to press on with the old-fashioned methods of estimating their capabilities in reading.

The readers' adviser tries to learn all he can of his client's reading experience and

ability in terms of specific books, magazines, newspapers, etc., whether he has read much or little, rapidly with ease or slowly with great effort. The books on the reader's list have to be hand-picked with these considerations in mind. It is obvious that you cannot give a verbally difficult book, which he just cannot understand, to a person, no matter how burning his interest in the subject. Again, insult your bright reader with books hovering on the juvenile and business falls off rapidly.

You are probably aware of the tests for reading from both angles—the limits of the reader and the limits of the book. The American Library Association has appointed various sub-committees to report on readable books. In 1935 the Carnegie Corporation financed the publishing of a very thorough research by the University of Chicago called "What Makes a Book Readable?" The American Association for Adult Education even established a "Readability Laboratory" at the Teachers' College, Columbia University. The readers' adviser must make himself thoroughly conversant with these theories and techniques, so as to match the two sides together, the reader and his book.

The third part of the interview swings more to the personality of the reader. The adviser should learn all he can of his client's special interests and enthusiasms, if possible outside the field of the immediate request. This information can often open up interesting approaches to the topic. But most important is the fact that the adviser needs to discover—as subtly as possible, of course—the motives behind the request for reading guidance. Is the reader driving himself in an attempt to attain a better cultural background? Is it for reasons of pride or emulation? Is vocational ambition the incentive or is he a gentle soul who wouldn't mind some casually organized recreation?

The client begins to fall into place as an individual, so that when the librarian adviser sets out to gather his material he is looking for books on wood-turning for Joe Smith and not assembling a mere collection of wood-turning books.

#### BIBLIOTHERAPY

The further specialization of readers' advising is what we call bibliotherapy. This can be defined generally as the treatment of disease and allied conditions by reading specially selected books.

Now in ordinary readers' advising your client's emotions may be stimulated by reading the books on his list, but this is not the usual purpose behind the adviser's recommendations. In most cases clients for readers' advising seek information and then perhaps aesthetic enjoyment; but any change that may come about in the emotions is usually accidental.

The primary purpose of the bibliotherapist, however, is to work in the field of the emotions, endeavouring to substitute desirable for undesirable by prescribing his books in the manner of a physician with his drugs. The considerations of readability and the patient's ability naturally underlie all such recommendations.

I can best explain what sort of results are expected by some examples. Let us take the mythical case of Bill Jones, who is found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Bill is suddenly despatched to the strange and frightening world of a sanatorium. He is confused by the hospital routine, he is panicked by the disease he doesn't understand, he is tormented by thoughts of his wife and children dependent upon him, and he's frightened he may die.

There are going to be a lot of people trying to help Bill Jones—the doctors and the nurses, the occupational therapists and the recreational therapists, the almoners and, of course, the hospital librarian. Any onslaught from these well-meaning people will probably only confuse him all the more. Any patient going into a hospital must feel similar confusion until adjustment takes place. It would be the same in prisons. First offenders at least must experience these feelings on being suddenly whisked away to gaol and, like Bill, they are not going to settle down to read "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" on their first night.

So the librarian gives Bill a short time to settle down and then goes to work on him. Let us examine the pattern of Bill's

problems. There are things he doesn't understand about his disease, and his ignorance is breeding anxiety. He doesn't know what has happened and he doesn't know what to expect. Sometimes it is not as simple as that. Sometimes he has quite a fantastic version of what has happened and an even more fantastic view of what is to follow, supplied by courtesy of generations of inbred superstition, popular medical myth and tales told by old wives as well as by old husbands.

We have two approaches to make to him. The librarian has to develop his diversional reading so that he can rest from the anxieties that are harassing him. At the same time she has gradually to bring to his notice books, pamphlets, articles in periodicals, which explain to him in popular terms those features in his situation which he cannot understand. The purpose of the first group is to let him forget his fears, and the second to dispel them. He has to be encouraged to look outside himself, and when the time is ripe to look inside himself.

Now nobody can use books as precisely as this unless he knows them thoroughly; so it seems that the would-be bibliotherapist will have to be a person of super-human reading activity. In the textbooks the student is warned against the dangers of handing out as diversional reading books which contain something quite incidental but detrimental nevertheless to the patient's peace of mind. I have seen a Warwick Deeping novel cited, where in the midst of a lot of quite innocuous carryings-on, one character suddenly announces that he thinks all mental patients should be put out of what he considers to be their misery. It would not be kind or good policy to issue such a book indiscriminately. Even though she cannot guarantee to have vetted every paragraph and every sentence, the librarian should be very wary of recommending books she has not read, particularly in work with highly sensitive patients.

#### FACTS AND FICTION

Generally the value of diversional books can be readily seen where the patient can forget himself in looking at things beyond his own personality. This can be done

particularly with non-fiction, in travel, music, art, history, popular science, and so on, the how-to-do-it books, stimulating and encouraging hobbies, photography, stamp collecting, the indoor games and the outdoor sports. Also there is plenty of fiction which can be classified as diversional, the humorous books, the historical novels, the adventure stories and so forth. But once into the fiction field the bibliotherapist is moving on more complicated ground. For surely the great attraction of fiction is the opportunity to identify oneself with the characters. The shop assistant can become the movie queen, the straight-laced spinster can become Amber with her 57 varieties of lovers, the train driver can become a diplomat and the diplomat can become the train driver. Fiction is invaluable because it lets you be someone else; it lets you do something else; it lets you escape; it diverts you.

There is another approach to fiction, however, where the therapist with skill, and with much assistance from the medical officers, can exploit this substitution of self for fiction characters. This is in using books with plots repeating as closely as possible the case history of the patient concerned. As he reads through, the conscious or subconscious identification comes into play. The solution the plot offers, the attitudes developed by the characters towards the central problem, its causes and effects, are being offered to the patient as indirect guidance. It is an approach the results of which cannot be guaranteed, but it is worth trying. For those endeavouring to understand and sort out their problems, this fiction approach is the sugar-coated way. Patients may not even be aware they have swallowed the pill. This process somewhat resembles group therapy, psycho-drama. In both types of therapy the novel and the drama in the hands of skilled psychiatrists can bring situations to the surface which otherwise months of analysis would be needed to uncover.

There are other angles to patients' reading besides motives. We take for instance a group of books which can be called consolation or even inspiration literature. These would be for people depressed with

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their own inadequacy, either physical or mental. They have to be told they are still important and necessary people, and what is more they can rise to the heights and so on.

Take your amputation case. You have to find stories of persons who not only did not permit the loss to reduce them, but actually went on to a richer, fuller life, and the rest of it. You find such stories in novels, but the more convincing ones appear in biographies. The plots don't have to be identical. The story of Helen Keller could console and inspire far more than the blind, the deaf and the dumb.

#### BIT BY BIT

One of the main problems facing the bibliotherapist is concentration. You may have people who have never had the reading habit, and others whose reading habit is disturbed by their new circumstances. We are consequently faced with the problem of the form of their reading as well as the subject matter. We find the answer in magazines and picture books. The reader can be started off on "Readers' Digest" snippets, even joke books, anything he can pick up and put away without losing the thread. Then gradually, as his interest and ability begin to increase, the short stories are introduced, firstly in magazines and then in books. It is curious how people think that less is required of them from paper backs. The step to the hard covered book is a major one, and one that it is almost impossible to convince some people to take.

In truly earnest bibliotherapy we must be clear why we give out a certain book, clear about what we expect might happen to the patient. We must then follow up to find out what actually did happen. However, I consider it even more necessary to be clear as to why we do not hand out particular books. Like the process of censorship in any other field, it should not be applied by the woolly-minded or the biased. There

should be a good clear awareness of what is going to happen to the patient. It is obvious that you would not hand over Ellery Queen's "Dutch Shoe Mystery", of sudden death in a hospital, to allcomers in your wards. But the books usually condemned by the little censors, who are articulate in everything but a sound logical statement of their reasons, may be invaluable when supplied to the right patient.

Take, for instance, books on sex and its problems. Sex is surely one of the greatest contributors to the prisons, child welfare homes and mental hospitals of this country—sex and ignorance. My first reaction in beginning hospital work was to be wary of even novels with voluptuous covers. This is far from justified. Gottschalk, in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* (April, 1948, pp. 632-637) shows that sex manuals, from the very simplest to Havelock Ellis, in the hands of qualified people are having a beneficial effect on selected patients. Psychiatrists in the United States have used bibliotherapy as a means of gaining the confidence of small delinquent boys, as well as a means of working out a pattern of motives in the child. The organization called Alcoholics Anonymous uses reading as an essential part of its programme, thus making each participant his own bibliotherapist.

These possibilities of using books open up for the librarian vast fields of activity which remove him far from the secluded days, peaceful though they were, when he was a mere custodian. Certainly in bibliotherapy we have one of the means by which the librarian can branch out into community service and take his place beside the other humanity-serving professions.

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"... open libraries are as essential to health of mind as open spaces are to health of body. . ."

His Majesty King George V at the Opening of the Manchester Public Libraries' new Central Library building, 17th July, 1934.

## Branches

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

At the annual meeting, held on February 15, the following office bearers were selected:

*President:* Miss E. S. Hall, B.A.

*Hon. Secretary:* C. A. Burmester, B.A.

*Hon. Treasurer:* Miss M. E. Harry, B.A.

*Hon. Auditors:* Mrs. S. Warde, B.A., and Miss D. Penfold, B.A.

During March members of the Branch enjoyed the opportunity of entertaining south-east Asian visitors to the library seminar and of introducing them to life in Australia, one of the most successful outings being a visit to the annual show at the village of Hall. Other arrangements included visits to Parliament, Australian National University, Australian War Memorial and libraries and government departments in Canberra. Mr. Moeksan, who arrived from Indonesia after the Canberra session of the seminar concluded, spent some weeks in the Commonwealth National Library. Mr. Hugh Behymer, who had met Branch members during the session, returned in May and led discussions on the following subjects: Philosophy of Librarianship; Development of a National Programme; Recruiting for Librarianship; The Organization of Technical Processes; The Role of Administration.

One public lecture by Mr. Behymer was arranged under the auspices of the Branch. The subject of the public lecture—"The Library in the Community"—provoked considerable discussion, in which librarians and non-librarians participated, concerning the establishment of children's libraries in Canberra. Mr. Behymer's insistence that the community could not expect to get anything without fighting for it was taken well to heart. Within a fortnight of the lecture a public meeting on children's libraries which was called by the Women Graduates' Association and the National Council of Women was addressed by Miss N. Booker of Sydney. The strong committee appointed by the meeting is now active.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

The chief item of interest since the last issue of the *Library Journal* has been the visit to Sydney of the participants in the South-East Asian Library Seminar.

At a well-attended meeting of the Branch at the Public Library of New South Wales on May 14, addresses were given by two of the visitors. Dr. M. R. Khan spoke on "Development of the Library Movement in India", with particular emphasis on plans for the future and the immensity of the task before librarians in that country. Mr. B. C. Reyes gave a comprehensive historical account of the library movement in the Philippines.

The Executive of the Branch arranged a picnic for the participants at Coal and Candle Creek on Saturday, May 17, when the delights of billy tea were sampled. Cars were lent by various members of the Association, and after the picnic the Hon. Treasurer of the Branch, Mr. G. H. Robin, and Mrs. Robin entertained hosts and guests at their seaside home at Avalon.

Miss Elizabeth Hill, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, is on leave of absence until the middle of July, having been seconded to the Western Australian Education Department to conduct a short school for teacher-librarians.

A meeting has been called at the Public Library of New South Wales for Friday, June 20, with the object of considering a resolution for the formation of a section for library work with children and young people. The formation of a section will bring to an end the work of the School and Children's Library Committee of the New South Wales Branch, which has been active for many years. However, members of the committee will continue their efforts within the section.

### QUEENSLAND

The official opening of the free library which has been established by the Johnstone Shire Council at Innisfail took place on May 23. The Hinchinbrook Shire Council plans to remove its free library at

Ingham to new quarters, and the construction of a brick library building is well under way.

The town of South Coast has decided to enter the library field. Libraries are to be established at Southport and Coolangatta in the near future, and at Burleigh Heads and Surfers' Paradise as soon as possible.

The discussion group which the Queensland Branch formed on 2nd October, 1951, met with instant success. Average attendance at meetings is approximately 25. Subjects recently discussed include micro-cards, library publicity, central cataloguing, and regional library systems. It is considered that these meetings are having a very good effect in enabling members to exchange viewpoints and to increase their knowledge of librarianship.

The Libraries Promotion Sub-committee has commenced a membership drive among Queensland local authorities. Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Townsville city councils have already indicated their willingness to join the Association.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

March and April were very full and interesting months for South Australian members with the visit of the south-east Asian librarians, closely followed by that of Professor E. H. Behymer, who conducted six seminars. The attendances at these seminars and the lengthy discussion which followed each one were compliments to Professor Behymer's outstanding ability.

The Indians, Philipinos, and Mr. Behymer aroused a great deal of interest and enthusiasm and their visits did much to stimulate interest in libraries both outside and within the profession.

Four general meetings have been held since February, as follows:

March 18—Mr. G. H. Pitt gave an interesting paper on "Fiction in Public Libraries".

March 26—Short talks were given by Messrs. Koranne and Krishna Rao and Miss Mercado on Indian and Philippine libraries. Particular interest was aroused in an illustrated lecture on the Colon Classification.

April 23—Professor E. H. Behymer gave a talk entitled "The Library in the Community". Members of the general public were invited to this meeting.

May 21—Mr. I. G. Symons, President of the Free Library Movement, explained the aims and achievements of the movement.

### TASMANIA

At the April meeting Mr. W. E. Fuller gave an entertaining account of some personal experiences as a bookseller in Hobart. His talk emphasized the growth and importance of the book shop over the years and its value in developing the reading habit among the community.

In May the Branch held a meeting at which members brought up for general discussion any topic of library interest. The object was to encourage those intending to take the Association's examinations in June to come forward with their problems and let the meeting do its best to clarify and explain difficulties. A lively discussion developed and it was generally agreed that the exchange of ideas had been helpful and very worthwhile.

On May 26 Professor Hugh Behymer arrived in Tasmania on a visit of three weeks. He conducted a number of seminars on various library subjects in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, Burnie and Sheffield, and everywhere the talks were well received and aroused keen discussion. During his visit Professor Behymer was able to visit libraries in all the main centres of population as well as many in rural areas. He was particularly interested in school libraries and the State-wide library service of the Lady Clark Memorial Children's Library.

### VICTORIA

The second quarterly meeting of the Branch was held in April and was addressed by Professor H. Behymer. He gave a most interesting outline of the American educational system of today. A few days later the Branch President, Dr. Benson, and Councillors entertained Professor Behymer and the visiting south-east Asian librarians at a late afternoon party.

The Victorian Branch gratefully acknowledges the action of the General Council in making available special funds for the purpose of assisting a campaign for the promotion of membership. This campaign is now well under way in Victoria. An index of over 200 potential members, both corporate and affiliate, has been compiled and it is hoped to approach all of these by means of a personal letter.

The Association's examinations for the Preliminary and Qualifying Certificates are almost over. In Melbourne there was a record number of candidates—93 for the Preliminary and 40 for the Qualifying.

Grants allocated by the Free Library Service Board for the current year have now been approved by the Minister. The £1 for £1 subsidy amounted to £63,539, or 1s. 9½d. per head of the population serviced by municipalities. Municipalities subsidized for the first time included the cities of Geelong West and Shepparton and the shires of Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Creswick, Mansfield and Rutherglen. We hope to see libraries established in all these centres within the coming year.

The Branch extends its sympathy to the Shire of Rutherglen, whose recently opened library was burned down last month. Fortunately, this regrettable setback to library development in the Upper Murray area will be alleviated by a special grant of £2,500 from the Free Library Service Board to the Upper Murray Regional Library Service.

The Branch offers its congratulations to Miss Jean Addison on her recent appointment as Children's Library Officer to the Free Library Service Board. Another interesting appointment in Victoria has been that of Mr. H. A. Gregory as City Librarian

at Coburg. Formerly City Librarian at Prahran, Mr. Gregory now faces the heavy but satisfying task of creating a new library service.

The advanced course in the Library Training School at the Public Library of Victoria will begin on June 23 and continue until November. Twelve students have been enrolled and ten of these will receive State Government scholarships which provide for remission of fees and a living allowance during the period of training.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Library circles in Perth have been stimulated by the successive visits of two librarians coming from beyond the State. The first of these was Mr. E. H. Behymer, and members of the Association will not need to be told that his visit was a strenuous one. His interpretation of the word "library" was so liberal and his willingness to answer calls upon his attention so generous that few moments of his time were unoccupied. It may be some compensation to Mr. Behymer to learn that the interest in libraries revealed by his visit was a great encouragement. The second visitor, Miss Hill of New South Wales, has not been so much in the public eye, but the influence of her school for teacher-librarians will be carried to the young people of most of the larger towns in the State.

The executive committee of the appeal for funds to establish children's libraries as a memorial to the late Lady Mitchell has recently put its programme before local government authorities and has gained the impression that a forward move in library development would be sympathetically considered by these bodies.

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## Notices and News

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### Subscriptions

The Association is meeting you half way. All members who have not already paid up have been sent a notice with an addressed and postage-paid envelope. If you have not

already paid your subscription directly or through your Branch Treasurer, all you have to do is to put a cheque or postal notes for your 1952 subscription and any arrears in the envelope and put it in the post. The Association pays postage on delivery.

## Elections

Miss B. Johnston, B.Sc., of the library of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Division of Food Preservation and Transport, Sydney, has been elected Representative Councillor for the Special Libraries Section; Miss A. Harrison, of the Medical School Library, Melbourne, is Corresponding Secretary, and Mr. F. L. S. Bell, M.A., of the City of Sydney Public Library, Representative Councillor for the Public Libraries Section; Mr. Billot, of the Box Hill City Library, Victoria, is Corresponding Secretary. These elections are for this year. The elections of all representative councillors for 1953 have to be completed by September 30 (By-law 2.2).

## Meetings

Meetings of the General Council and the Board of Examination will probably be held early in October.

## Examinations and Schools

The first annual examinations under the new regulations and syllabus have just been held; 288 candidates entered for the Preliminary, 25 for three sections of the Qualifying, 19 for two sections, and 150 for one section.

The advanced course in the Victorian Library School began on June 23 and will continue until November. Of twelve students, ten have government scholarships which cover fees and a living allowance.

This year the New South Wales school has not continued its day courses beyond the first-term short course; instead it is continuing with evening courses of three terms beginning in July and going on till April of next year. Entrants must have passed the Preliminary or sat for it this year, and they may take one, two or three of the following courses: Cataloguing (excluding classification and subject headings); Municipal and Shire Libraries; The Production, Publication, History and Care of Books. These will be related to the Association's qualifying subjects—Q.1, 3.B and 6, and possibly in part Q.8. If there is sufficient response, similar courses will be given in 1953-1954, but

on Classification and Subject Cataloguing; National, State and University Libraries; Advanced Reference Work and Special Libraries, related to the Association's Q.2, 3.A and C, 4 and 5, and possibly in part Q.7. The fees will be £4 for each course, each term.

The Association's handbook, including its constitution, by-laws, examination regulations and syllabus, is available at 5s., including postage.

## NEW MEMBERS

*Corresponding Corporate Membership:* Edinburgh Public Libraries, Great Britain; Glasgow Corporation Public Libraries, Great Britain; Leeds College of Commerce, Great Britain.

### New South Wales Branch

*Affiliate Membership:* Muriel Margaret Barwell, John William Bruce, Joyce H. Bucknell, Helen Nathilda Shadforth Harrison, George Oliver Ingledew, Mrs. Elva Honore Kennedy, Alfred Robert McKenzie Langley, Mrs. Sheild Langley, Warwick Geoffrey Twigg.

*Corporate Membership:* Australian Institute of International Affairs (New South Wales Branch), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization National Standards/Radiophysics Laboratories, Cumberland Municipal and Shire Libraries Association, Kyogle Shire Council, Royal Australian Historical Society.

### Queensland Branch

*Affiliate Membership:* Jack Hart, Professor Frederick Walter Robinson, Herman Suurbier.

*Corporate Membership:* Historical Society of Queensland Inc., Council of City of Rockhampton, Toowoomba Municipal Library, Council of City of Townsville.

### Victorian Branch

*Affiliate Membership:* Harold Godfrey Green, Ivan Sergeevitch Groodin.



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Applications by August 22 to the Librarian, Commonwealth National Library, Canberra, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

## Binding Without Sewing

One of the most time-consuming and therefore costly processes in the binding of periodicals is collating and sewing by the traditional methods. As an alternative, various ways have been proposed of binding together each issue of a periodical to make a volume without taking them to pieces. They may be stitched through the sides using thread or tape or wire, or they may be simply held together by means of paper or tape stuck across the backs, provided staples are left in and any covers merely held on themselves by glue or paste, taken off. Glue is not satisfactory for this because it dries hard and cracks when the volume is opened, moreover glue has to be boiled and kept on the boil for use. What is needed is a flexible adhesive. There may be more than one kind, but successful experiments have been made with polyvinyl acetate emulsion. This can be used cold and readily brushed on, and it dries sufficiently in a few hours. Under the name of "Emultex" it is being sold by Beetle-Elliott Ltd., of Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, by Timbrol Ltd. in Brisbane, and by Felton, Grimwade and Bickford Ltd., Perth.

Reprints of the article on "Simple Book Repairs" in the April issue are now available at 3d. each.

# LIBRAIRERIE

When first I came to work with you  
I was so ignorant;  
I thought that nothing but a zoo  
Could house an Elephant.

I thought that maybe Don Anon  
Was some grandee of Spain,  
And Caps were what you wore upon  
The head to keep off rain.

Dewey was just a poet's word  
Describing morn or eve;  
And Dup, for all I'd ever heard  
Meant simply to deceive.

I thought Accessions were the things  
Reserved for use alone  
When emperors and czars and kings  
Were coming to the throne.

Oh to me spelt simply Oh,  
Se of course, south-east.  
Pp meant pianissimo  
And Cat my favourite beast.

A mediaeval memory  
From days as dead as mutton,  
Assured me Pam was something by  
The Baroness von Hutten.

Thus mazed about my tasks I go,  
And learn fresh terms each day.  
But who the heck could ever know  
What's meant by L I K?

K. MCKAY,  
*The Mitchell Library, Sydney.*

## Notes for laymen and beginners:

Elephant—the largest size of folio, which is the largest size book.  
Don Anon—donor anonymous.  
Caps—capitals.  
Dewey—author of a well-known classification system.  
Dup—duplicate.  
Accessions—acquisitions.  
Oh—omit heading.  
Se—subject entry.  
Pp—pages.  
Cat—catalogue.  
Pam—pamphlet.  
L I K—latest issue kept.

## *Science in Australia*

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Australia is an arid land with few easily developed natural resources. The fertility of her soils can be maintained only through the fullest application of scientific knowledge. Science applied to primary and secondary industry, to medicine and to defence in Australia, poses unique and difficult problems of organisation and finance. The recruitment of the necessary scientists and the maintenance of fundamental research activities are national needs to be solved at a national level.

These problems are considered in a volume which is based on the proceedings of a Jubilee Seminar arranged by the Australian National University. Contributors include Harvard's Dr. Conant, Britain's Sir Edward Mellanby, Australia's Sir Douglas Copland, Professor Oliphant, Dr. Clunies Ross, Professor Wright and other prominent scientists and administrators.

This book is of particular importance at the present time. It indicates the dangers inherent in too great support for official science, at the expense of science in the Universities. It will be of value to all concerned with the practice, organisation and finance of scientific activities. It also carries an important message to the general reader interested in the progress and welfare of Australia.

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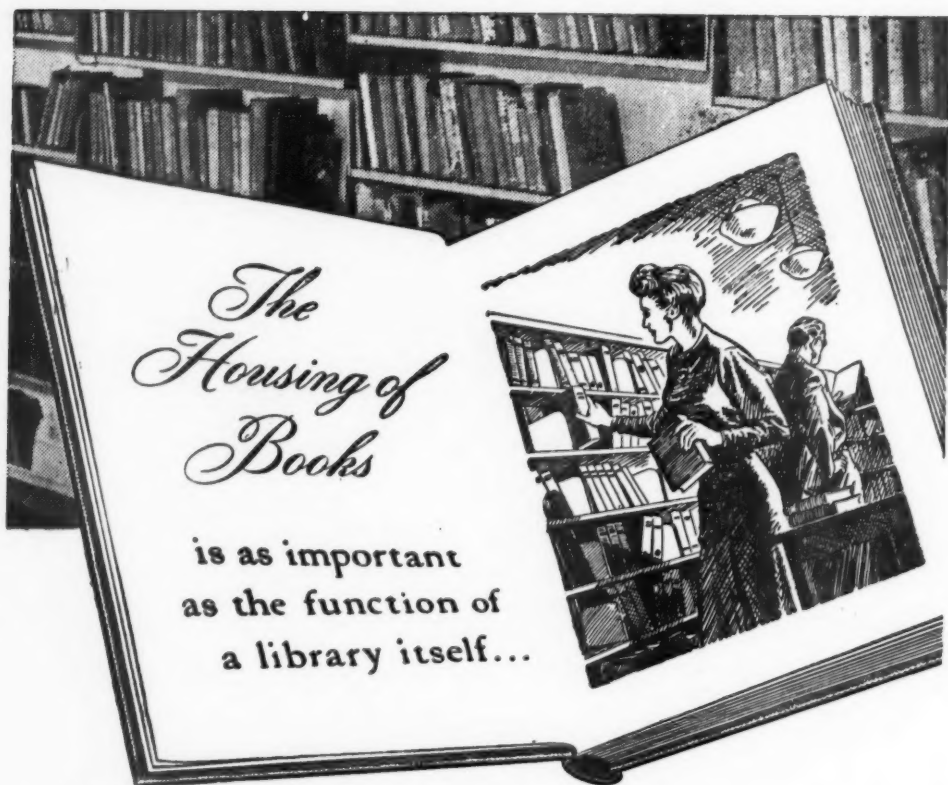
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